Subj: **Wells Fargo early small gold scale**
Date: 08/03/2004 10:15:43 AM Central Daylight Time
From: EricNumis
To: [redacted]

Dear Bob:
I wrote you an Email (I think) on June 30, 2004 about the above gold scale and not receiving an answer I just rechecked. My message was addressed to myself from myself and I do not remember whether I sent a copy to you at all. Did you receive it? If not I will send it again as the item I bought is fascinating and needs your input.
My best to you. Eric

Subj: **1909 publication anticipating 1911 coins in advance**
Date: 10/04/2004 11:59:37 AM Central Daylight Time
From: EricNumis
To: [redacted]

Dear Bob:
I received and read the 1909 Money and Stamp Manual you were kind enough to send me. It will be an unusual but most appreciated item in my library. The mysterious author undertook much thought to write in detail about so many subjects and must have been stimulated by many of the prior catalogs produced by Scott Stamp and Coin Co. of New York. I wonder if his 1911 catalog was ever published as was planned by providing the price and tear sheet.
The period of its publication was a time when interest in numismatics was limited and obtaining special items from the MInt was common by the wealthy. I thank you for surprising me with a lovely gift so useful for my study of numismatic collector history.
As to my WF & Co. punched scale I have found a picture of a similar one (no WF & Co. mentioned) on page 226 of "Western Pursuit of the American Dream" which is a book just published describing and illustrating the enormous collection of Kenneth W. Rendell of Western American objects. I presume you are aware of it. He has a transportation WF box and a WF coach among other things. I have written him to see if his scale has any stamping on it.
Thank you again for your thoughtfulness. Eric

Subj: **WF marked gold scale**
Date: 09/23/2004 2:28:56 PM Central Daylight Time
From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]

Dear Bob:
You indicated that you had several small scales like the picture of the one I just sent you. You also said you had the box type where the upright is screwed into the box for support.
I thought I had written you that mine is much larger. I am furnishing further details as to size. The horizontal beam is 12 1/4 inches long and 1/2 inch thick near the fulcrum. The pans are 6 1/8 inches in diameter and 1 inch deep. When the scale is handheld the ends of the beam are 13 inches above the top of the suspended pans. This scale is capable of weighing substantial amounts.
Now what do you think? Eric

Subj: **RE: Miners' Scale**
Date: 09/21/2004 8:20:04 PM Central Daylight Time
From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]

Yes, per cased scales. Obviously to keep dust off the bearings. No, we did not get those; wish we did. $25,000 is the range for one now. DEIGHTED TO HEAR YOU ARE DOING A MUSEUM!

-----Original Message-----
From: [redacted] [mailto:[redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, September 21, 2004 5:31 PM
To: [redacted]
Subject: Re: Miners' Scale

The beautiful Howard and Davis scales in your 1859 inventory must have been for WF office counters only and not portable. Is this what you referred to as cased scales? I remember seeing the one you have on display. I happen to have one virtually identical but made by E. Davis after the partners separated. I remember a Howard and Davis being withdrawn from an auction many years ago and sold privately and I was told then that it sold for either $15,000 or $25,000. Stacks had one about 5 years ago and it was in the $25,000 range. Did you buy either of these?
I am most appreciative of your help. Some of our scales will go on display in the Gold Rush case in my new museum.
I may be able to Email the picture of the new WF balance instead of mailing it. Eric

Subj: **RE: Miners' Scale**
Date: 09/21/2004 4:23:18 PM Central Daylight Time
From: [redacted]
To:

Wells Fargo did one inventory we have, 35 scales in 1859, valued $200 each. At that price, these sound like the large Howard & Davis scales kept in glass cases, not boxed. In 1857, Wells sent a scales up to Columbia; then in 1859, sent a better, Howard & Davis model, which we at one time owned—traded it to the state for another so they could put the real one in Columbia. We don't have any record of any WF markings on it. This is the only scale we can attribute to Wells Fargo ownership.

-----Original Message-----
From: [redacted] [mailto: [redacted]]
Sent: Tuesday, September 21, 2004 1:56 PM
To: [redacted]
Subject: Re: Miners' Scale

You are absolutely correct that the scale beam is stamped with individual letter punches which seems to make it earlier in the period of agents. Do you know about how many agents were working at times during the 1852 to 1855 period? Do you have a picture for me of a boxed scale used by the agents and the measurements of the scale? Was the boxed scale furnished by WF to its agents or was it marked with any WF identification?
I will mail you a picture of my scale to go along with the text imprint.
Thank you for helping me. Eric

Subj: **Re: Miners' Scale**
Date: 09/21/2004 7:31:12 PM Central Daylight Time
From: EricNumis
To: [redacted]

The beautiful Howard and Davis scales in your 1859 inventory must have been for WF office counters only and not portable. Is this what you referred to as cased scales? I remember seeing the one you have on display. I happen to have one virtually identical but made by E. Davis after the partners separated. I remember a Howard and Davis being withdrawn from an auction many years ago and sold privately and I was told then that it sold for either $15,000 or $25,000. Stacks had one about 5 years ago and it was in the $25,000 range. Did you buy either of these?
I am most appreciative of your help. Some of our scales will go on display in the Gold Rush case in my new museum.
I may be able to Email the picture of the new WF balance instead of mailing it.
Eric

Subj: **Re: Miners' Scale**
Date: 09/21/2004 3:55:54 PM Central Daylight Time
From: EricNumis
To: [redacted]

You are absolutely correct that the scale beam is stamped with individual letter punches which seems to make it earlier in the period of agents. Do you know about how many agents were working at times during the 1852 to 1855 period? Do you have a picture for me of a boxed scale used by the agents and the measurements of the scale? Was the boxed scale furnished by WF to its agents or was it marked with any WF identification?
I will mail you a picture of my scale to go along with the text imprint.
Thank you for helping me. Eric

Subj: **Miners' Scale**
Date: 09/21/2004 9:25:30 AM Central Daylight Time
From: EricNumis
To: [redacted]

Hi:
I finally had a friend send you by Email images of the scale I previously told you about when I acquired it. The image of the lettering punched into the beam is as clear as the original and shows the rust and surface toning. Have you any information as to when or where the agents of Wells Fargo might have been using these to buy gold dust or washed ore? Did WF pay someone to make or stamp them and then distribute them? How many agents would WF have had from time to time? This would not have been just one person's doing, but an identification of to whom it really belonged. The beam is about 13 inches long and the pans are bowl shaped so that there must have often been considerable material in one weighing. It seems to be too large to be handheld and probably was hung on something while weighing and then was easily transportable. Any additional questions you have I will be glad to try to answer. I look forward to your thinking and any findings about it.
My best to you. Eric

Subj: **The gold miner's scale with W.F.& Co Ex**
Date: 08/12/2004 2:37:30 PM Central Daylight Time
From: EricNumis
To: [redacted]

Dear Bob:
As to the above I promised to send to Bill Doniger whatever information you furnished me. I hope that is OK.
Incidentally I want to assure you that the punching on my piece is quite of the period in that the corrosive blackness of the iron and the rust accumulation is identical in the depressed area where the letter punches are as on the rest of the surface of the beam.
I look forward to hearing from you. Eric

Wednesday, June 30, 2004 America Online: EricNumis

Subj: **(no subject)**
Date: 06/30/2004 9:07:36 PM Central Daylight Time
From: EricNumis
To: EricNumis

Dear Robert Chandler:
Our previous vigorous correspondence arising from Emperor Norton, territorial gold, etc. is now resumed.
I have acquired over Ebay from a Utah source a gold scale which I know nothing about but I know it was a sleeper because no one seems to have recognized what it really was. I want you to tell me what I bought.
The beam is wrought iron about 13 1/4 inches long. Two circular pans 6 inches in diameter and 3/4 inches deep are each suspended on three brass chains. The pans are dark dull brassy color. The pointer and fulcrum holder are iron. There is a brass chain through the top loop of the fulcrum holder so that it can be hand held or suspended by a horizontal nail or projection. In small incused capital letters in the middle of the left side of the beam and extending for about 1 inch horizontally there is punched with individual punches W. F. & CO EX.
In the description of the item it mentioned the punched lettering on the beam of a gold scale and said that the beam was made by a blacksmith. It said it came from a Utah family. There was no indication as to what the letters stood for.
It took me about 1/10th of a second to guess Wells Fargo and I was so shocked I did not notice the EX. When I realized that W.F. could be a number of peoples' names I was at first disillusioned until I read EX. Then I rushed to your museum brochure and saw the 1852 date and picture showing the beginning of the use of the Wells Fargo & Co. Express name.
Did the firm furnish scales to gold buying agents so they could purchase gold dust, nuggets or ore? Did the firm sell scales to miners? What can you tell me as to the date or otherwise? I am all ears. Eric (Eric P. Newman)
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